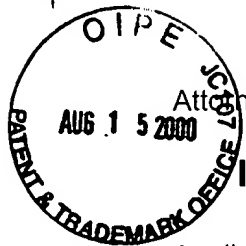


422 Rec'd PCT/PTO 15 AUG 2000

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Attorney Docket No.: 2870/287

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Maes, et al.

Serial No.: 09/554,984

Group Art Unit: TO BE ASSIGNED

Filed: MAY 23, 2000

Examiner: TO BE ASSIGNED

For: COMPOSITION FOR IMPROVING SKIN LIPID BARRIER FUNCTION

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant submits herewith references which he believes may be material to the examination of this application and with respect to which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.56.

While the references may be "material" under 37 C.F.R. 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that the references are "prior art" unless specifically designated as such.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that no other material references than those listed exist or that a search has been conducted.

The references are listed in PTO form 1449 which is in accordance with the requirements of M.P.E.P. 609. A copy of the references is also enclosed.

The references are as follows:

1. Joel E. Bernstein, U.S. Patent No. 5,508,034, 04/16/1996
2. Cho, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,529,769, 06/25/1996
3. Braquet, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,906,993, 05/25/1999
4. Maes, et al., U.S. Serial No. 09/246,607, Filing Date 02/08/1999
5. PCT, WO 94/00127, 6 January 1994
6. Japan, JP 60161911 A, 08/23/1985 - Abstract)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on

Date August 11, 2000 Atty's Reg. # 31,145

Atty's Signature Ernest J. Treadwell

KENYON & KENYON

Attorney Docket No.: 2870/287
Serial No.: 09/554,984

PATENT
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It is respectfully requested that these references be considered by the Patent and Trademark Office in its examination of the above-identified application and be made a record therein. The Examiner is also invited to contact the Undersigned if there are any questions concerning this paper or the attached references.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted before the first Office Action on the merits of this application. Therefore, no fee is believed due.

Respectfully submitted,

Date Aug. 11, 2000
Enclosures


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